

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Thompson, James Monroe House

other names/site number "Shady Rest"

2. Location

street & number E side SR 2158; .1 mi. S jct. SR 2150 not for publication N/A

city or town Saxapahaw vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Alamance code 001 zip code 27340

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William S. Pinf. SHPO 9-30-93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

James Monroe Thompson House
Name of Property

Alamance Co., NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Log Buildings in Alamance Co., NC c. 1780-c. 1930 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dswlling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: log; two-pen

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls log
weatherboard
roof metal
other brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

see continuation sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1850; 1872

Significant Dates

c. 1850

1872

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown; Thompson, James Monroe, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

see continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

James Monroe Thompson House
Name of Property

Alamance Co., NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.4 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	6	5	1	300	39	81	90,0
Zone	Easting			Northing				
2								

3								
Zone	Easting			Northing				
4								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

see Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia S. Dickinson

organization _____ date March 1, 1993

street & number 4606 Hunt Rd. telephone (919) 732-5439

city or town Hillsborough state NC zip code 27278

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mrs. T. R. Crawford

street & number 1654 Crawford Rd. telephone (919) 376-3273

city or town Graham NC state NC zip code 272 53

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

James Monroe Thompson House
Alamance Co., NC

Section number 7 Page 1

7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The James Monroe Thompson House, or "Shady Rest," is located at 5728 Saxapahaw Road, Thompson Township, in southeast Alamance County. Originally the centerpiece of a 123-acre farm, the double-pen log house now stands on a 2.4 acre tract. The main elevation of the house faces south; it stands at a right angle to the present road, with the west gable end facing Saxapahaw Road. The house is set in a grassy yard planted with spring bulbs and rose bushes and shaded by old maple and locust trees. It is set back from the rural road next to a neighborhood of contemporary dwellings built on part of the original farm acreage.

In 1872 James Monroe Thompson built a two-story log addition beside an existing c. 1850 one-story, single-pen log house; the original log house was then used as a kitchen and formed the left (west) half of the expanded house. The construction date and early history of this pen are unknown, but the date can be approximated because the roof rafters meet at a ridge board, a construction feature ordinarily found on Alamance County's post-1850 log buildings. When the adjoining two-story wing was constructed, Thompson covered both units with unpainted weatherboards which survive intact.

Each log unit stands on a stone foundation, is topped a metal-clad gable roof, and has an exterior end chimney: the chimney on the one-story, older pen is stone with a brick stack and the other chimney is brick. The one-story log pen is used as the kitchen today, with the parlor and bedrooms located in the two-story section.

The interior of the one-story single-pen kitchen has exposed chamfered ceiling beams, whitewashed logs, a large stone hearth, six-over-three windows (some with old, perhaps original, glass), and a loft area with exposed rafters of stripped round logs.

The two-story log addition contains one large room on the first floor which is sheathed with wide vertical planks; six-over-six sash windows; a two-panel door at the main entrance; a rear plank-and-batten door; and beaded ceiling joists. The single flight of stairs to the second floor is located in a narrow center hall beside a partition wall at the west end of the parlor. A narrow door was cut in the east wall of the kitchen to make a passageway between the kitchen and parlor. One large bedroom (originally divided into two bedrooms) on the second floor has whitewashed log walls, a plank ceiling

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

James Monroe Thompson House
Alamance Co., NC

Section number 7 Page 2

and wide plank floor boards.

A barn, log smokehouse, corn crib and fenced kitchen garden which originally stood in the field east of the house do not survive. A contributing (C) late nineteenth century board-and-batten covered well house stands a few steps in front of the original wing of the house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetJames Monroe Thompson House
Alamance Co., NCSection number 8 Page 1

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Summary:

The James Monroe Thompson House, also known as "Shady Rest," is significant under Criterion C as an intact example of a double-pen log dwelling reflecting two stages of construction, a building type discussed in the multiple property listing, "Log Buildings in Alamance County, North Carolina, c. 1780-c. 1930." The present appearance of "Shady Rest" dates from 1872 when James Monroe Thompson added a two-story single-pen log wing to an existing c. 1850 one-story single-pen log house and then covered both units with unpainted weatherboards. The house, once the centerpiece of Thompson's farm, is now owned by his grand-daughter, Dorothy Jobe Crawford, who grew up here and now maintains the house for use as her summer residence.

Historical Background:

According to family tradition, James Monroe Thompson, a Civil War veteran, built the two-story log wing of this house about the time of his marriage to Rebecca Patton on December 19, 1872.¹ He added this wing to an already existing one-story log house (history unknown) which Thompson then used as a kitchen. It is not known how Thompson acquired his initial tract of land (apparently no deeds survive). He may have received it from his family since many of his kinsmen lived in the immediate vicinity (see below). According to the 1880 Population Schedule of Alamance County, Thompson lived here with his wife Rebecca Patton Thompson and their four children who then ranged in age from six years to one month.²

The 1880 Agricultural Census indicates that Thompson's farm was typical of those found in Alamance County at that time. The farm consisted of sixty tilled acres, forty-six "unimproved, old fields," and ten acres of forest. The land and buildings were valued at \$800, farm implements at \$20, and livestock at \$175. He paid his hired farm laborer \$125 that year. He owned three horses, two cows which produced 100 pounds of butter, nine swine, and nine chickens which produced twenty-five dozen eggs. Fifteen acres were planted in corn, producing 300 bushels; six acres of oats yielded fifteen bushels; fifteen acres of wheat produced forty-six bushels; fifteen acres were planted in sweet potatoes; and twenty cords of wood were harvested from the wooded acres.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetJames Monroe Thompson House
Alamance Co., NCSection number 8 Page 2

James Monroe Thompson enlarged farm slightly in 1885 by buying almost five acres which adjoined his farm from kinsman (Uncle?) Samuel Thompson. [The 1893 W.L. Spoon map of Alamance County indicates that there were at least fifteen Thompson family members living within a narrow six mile band of each other along Meadow Creek and the Haw River. Ten of them were located in aptly named Thompson Township, east of the Haw; five other Thompsons lived just across the Haw River to the west.]⁴ James Monroe Thompson's parents, George F. and Sarah Thompson, gave their son a twenty-seven acre tract on the west side of the river in Albright Township in 1915, reserving "the right of the fruits of the land."⁵

The present owner, Dorothy Jobe Crawford, is the grand-daughter of James Monroe Thompson. She grew up at Shady Rest with her brother, Adrian, her widowed mother, Maggie Thompson Jobe, her grandmother, Rebecca (Becky) Patton Thompson, her cousin, Ilene Thompson Riddle, and two spinster aunts, Min and Cleora Thompson. She remembers her grandmother roasting sweet potatoes in the hot ashes of the large kitchen fireplace and popping corn over the dying flames. Her grandmother slept in a bed placed in the rear corner of the kitchen. Upstairs in the two-story wing, a room was curtained off for her brother Adrian. Later the women of the household built a better partition "with boards from the sawmill and layer and layer of paper."⁶ Her Aunt Min did most of the family's cooking and Aunt Cleora tended the cows and churned butter from their milk. Mrs. Crawford recalls that the small center hallway next to the kitchen functioned as the "dairy" in the winter; the milk and butter, as well as canned fruits and vegetables, were kept there. In the summer the milk and butter were kept in the smokehouse (now destroyed).

The Thompson family members were devoted members of the nearby Salem United Methodist Church. Min and Cleora were the "unsalaried custodians." They kept the church clean, washed and starched the crocheted altar clothes, washed the baptismal pitcher, and polished the woodstove. "'Are you ready for the meeting?' was a question often heard in Mrs. Crawford's childhood. It was not an inquiry about one's spiritual health. It meant 'Are your (church) floors scrubbed, your windows clean and your curtains washed and starched, and your cakes and pies baked?'"⁷

Mrs. Crawford recalled that when her log house was cleaned "from top to botton" her job was to dust the "trinkets" or small items. The log walls of the kitchen were whitewashed annually which meant all the furniture was removed and the noon meal

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

James Monroe Thompson House
Alamance Co., NC

Section number 8 Page 3

~~served outside, a novel treat for the household's children.~~

Dorothy Jobe married T(ed) R. Crawford in 1931. Ted Crawford was a farmer who grew cotton for a cash crop. In 1943 Crawford's cotton acreage was slightly enlarged when his parents sold him twelve and one half nearby (but apparently not adjoining) acres.

Gradually during the 1960s and 1970s T.R. and Dorothy Crawford sold the former Thompson farm acreage which was then developed as residential lots. They reserved the 2.4 acre log house tract for themselves and maintained Mrs. Crawford's childhood home.

Today, the James Monroe Thompson House is little changed from Dorothy Jobe Crawford's childhood. The board partition in the second story bedroom has been removed, and a refrigerator has replaced the "dairy." The house has fresh whitewash and clean, starched curtains at the windows. Now Mrs. Crawford grandchildren enjoy visits to their family's old homeplace which is so fondly maintained.

Footnotes

¹ Thompson Family Bible. In possession of Dorothy Jobe Crawford.

² United States Census Bureau. 1880 Population Schedule, Alamance County, North Carolina.

³ United States Census Bureau. 1880 Agricultural Schedule, Alamance County, North Carolina

⁴ Alamance County Deed Book 11, p. 430. See also W.L. Spoon Map of Alamance County, 1893, printed by H. B. Stranahan & Co. of Cleveland, Ohio.

⁵ Alamance County Deed Book 54, p. 123.

⁶ Edith Mogle, "The Years at Shady Rest," The City-County Magazine, May, 1990, p. 8.

⁷ Ibid., p. 10.

⁸ Interview with Dorothy Jobe Crawford, March 5, 1992.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

James Monroe Thompson House
Alamance Co., NC

Major Bibliographical References.

Alamance County Deed Book 11. Alamance County Courthouse, Graham, NC.

Mogel, Edith. "The Years at Shady Rest," The City-County Magazine, May, 1990, p.8.

United States Census Bureau. Alamance County, North Carolina. Population Schedules and Agricultural Schedules: 1790-1930.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

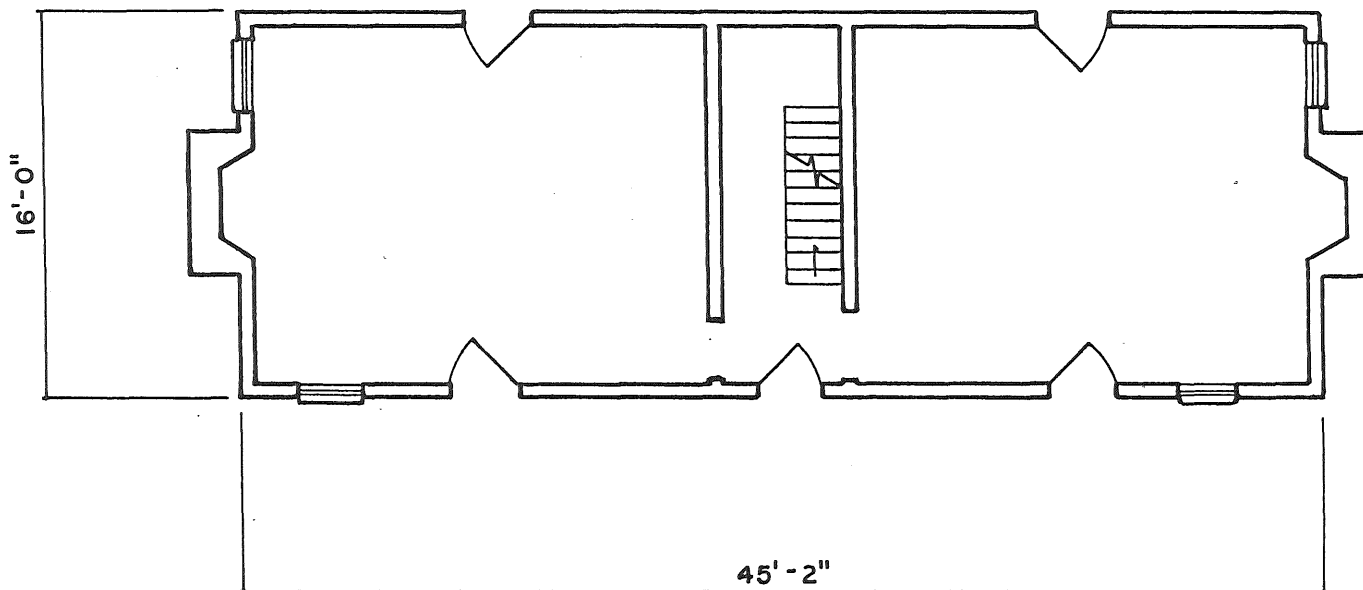
James Monroe Thompson House
Alamance Co., NC

Section number 10 Page 1

10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

All of Alamance County Tax Map 9, Block 23 A, Lot 43

The boundary includes a tract that has historically been associated with the property. The other farm acreage has been subdivided and developed with contemporary housing and no longer retains its historical integrity.



JAMES MONROE THOMPSON HOUSE
"SHADY REST"

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 0 1 2 3 4 5 10



Alamance County, NC

Saxapahaw vicinity

James Monroe Thompson House
Saxapahaw vicinity
Alamance Co., NC
Quad: Saxapahaw
Scale: 1:24,000

UTM References: 17U051300/2981900

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

5156 III SE
(MEBANE)

7 MI. TO INTERSTATE 85

17°30"

